

Board of Selectmen Workshop  
April 9, 2013

Five Selectpersons and the Town Administrator were present for this workshop on Parking. Police Chief Tom McCarthy and Peter Beacham were also in attendance.

Pilot parking Meter: Police Chief Tom McCarthy stated that thirty nine of the new meters were installed for the pilot, from T-Wharf, Dock Sq. to Rockport Nat'l Bank. The meters were very successful. 1/3 of the revenue was from credit cards. In the future, they should be used much more because of the credit and debit card capability. It cost the town \$0.13 for each swipe. IPS kept the records, no bank accounts needed to be set up. The cost for the town was in the vicinity of \$1,700. The new meters were installed on 8/5 and went through 11/1. In 2011 \$137,238 was collected from meters, in 2012 \$172,479 was generated, or an increase of \$35,241. This was not all due to the new meters because the rates were increased as well. Very few problems were encountered. The most significant complaint was the change in hours. When the meters were jammed or if there was a dispute with the meter, the information can be pulled right up at the time. Customer complaints should be reduced because they're accurate, they can be jammed, but they're accurate. This plan is phased in over a four year period; there are a total of 276 meters in town. Phase 1 includes Main St., T-Wharf extended to Beach Street, School Street, to the top of Bearskin Neck. Phase 2 includes Front and Back Beach. It was stated that the town lot charges \$0.10/hr. There is a possibility of having different costs for residents vs. non-residents. Kiosks (central pay stations) are possible, then you don't have to remove the meters to remove the snow off the sidewalks. However, the meters get damaged in the process as do the poles when the meters are removed. \$55,000 was approved, \$7,000 was not budgeted in error for training, spare parts, shipping, etc. It was mentioned that all meter revenue must be utilized for parking expenses (can be painting stripes in parking lots, cross walks, meter personnel, printing of parking tickets, parking clerk, etc.). It was also stated that police cruisers can be and are purchased with the funds collected each year. Selectperson Fleming stated that if the trolley was free, more people may use it. Chairperson Battistelli inquired about the plan going forward. We have to put together an RFP and get it out to vendors, the three vendors are POM, IPS and Duncan. The advantage of POM is one meter applies to 2 spaces. IPS doesn't provide housings, our existing meters will be obsolete at some point. With POM you get a new head and mechanism. Selectperson Fleming questioned how about escalating costs for premium spots. For instance on Front Beach, the first two hours would be \$1.00, then it would go to \$2.00. How about higher rates on the weekend and lower rates during the week. People can't be expected to be feeding a meter if they can't see it because it's dark. Peter Beacham commented that these meters can be programmed differently over time so nothing that is decided has to be permanent. A realistic timeframe to get the new meters in place is August. The Chief of Police will contact the three vendors to do some research. A public hearing must take place before raising any rates beyond the pilot program. Selectperson Murphy said let's schedule a public hearing, then talk about an increase and the new rates can carry over to the new meters. The Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday 4/30/13 at 7:00 pm. No additional meter locations are being proposed at this time, just replacing old meters. Raising the rates in the town lot from \$0.10 to perhaps \$0.25, will be discussed, times of meter enforcement and time limits. The municipal lot is underused on weekends; this should be surveyed and analyzed.

Traffic & Parking Committee briefing: It was stated that this year there are three parking staff.

- At 5 corners, removal of 2 parking spaces, the ladder truck needs to be able to get through.
- Add a stop sign at Jewett on Main Street
- Add stop sign on Broadway when taking right on Mt. Pleasant

Add these three items will be an Action Item on a subsequent Board of Selectmen meeting

- Rerouting traffic, delivery trucks and night events at the school are a problem, add a sign. The Town Administrator said that the Planning Board is working on developing signs for consistency and standardization.
- Hearing for CATA for moving the bus stop to Broadway and Mt. Pleasant. This will be brought before the Board of Selectmen. Significant costs, (with cut-in, taking trees down, etc.) are involved.
- Handicap parking space on Cathedral Avenue.
- Paint lines to designate lanes of traffic at 5 corners
- Develop a list of items where there are questions on what is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen vs. the Traffic and Parking Committee. This is still a work in process.

Long Beach Parking progress: M. Vieira, Asst. to the Town Administrator, stated that brush has been cut back, this week they are hoping to do physical layouts in coordination with the Association. Final placement will take place when equipment and DPW staff can accommodate it. Selectperson Wilkinson stated a public hearing should be scheduled at Long Beach once the parking project is complete to obtain resident input and have a tour. Placards will be assigned and what space they're assigned to will be clear, guest placards will be supplied as well. The Police will be enforcing this parking plan. Selectperson Wilkinson stated that we need to show that there's a presence initially and have the police take notice. The spaces will have numbers on them and the placards will correspond with the same numbers. The residents move in after April 15.

Review of town parking efforts to date:

- How to move forward: CATA contract, when is it up for renew. They are very restrictive with the details. Park n' ride currently running 11am to 7pm. A suggestion is that it should run from 1pm and until 9 or 9:30pm. The Town Administrator should meet with CATA and inquire about changing the hours and perhaps it will cost the town more to be more customer-friendly. How about another shuttle in addition to this shuttle. Selectperson Sheedy stated that the signage should really grab people's attention. Chairperson Battistelli said that once you've made it into town, how and where can we remind drivers to go back to find the free parking. One of the goals is certainly trying to reduce traffic downtown. A shuttle to the beaches and keeping those individuals staying in local inns could use it to reduce traffic. Chairperson Battistelli suggested valet parking behind town hall, use town land and send out an RFP for valet companies to bid, the vendor will keep the revenue, the town benefits by reducing traffic and increasing business in town. Run this by the town's insurance carrier to see what the risks are for liability/insurance issues for valet parking. How about approaching the Smith family regarding their parking lot. More advertising would be helpful. There are approximately 175 resident parking spaces unmetered in town.

9:00 pm Selectperson Fleming moved to adjourn, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.